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Campers try Native skills at Campbell Tract

Marlene Kawagley, a BLM Resource Apprenticeship Student, interviews Rita Bloomenstein as kids make medicine pouches.

Billy Pete, a Native resource person, plays the drum and tells stories during the week devoted to Native culture.

by Marlene Kawagley

Campers in the Trailside Discovery Camp used BLM's Campbell Tract land as the site of their activities this summer. The camp, sponsored by the Alaska Center for the Environment, offered outdoor activities for children in June and July.

During one week in July about 40 campers from preschool to sixth grade participated in the camp activities with an Alaska Native culture theme, said Barbara Johnson, camp director.

Bill Shem Pete was there as an instructor. He taught the children how to drum, how to make snares, and he told stories to them. The children learned how to make shelters, what's edible and what's not edible, what the different plant names are, and how to use the land wisely.

Rita Blumenstein of Palmer was one of the camp counselors who was teaching the campers how to sew skins. The children seemed to enjoy themselves while making medicine pouches from rabbit's fur. The groups I met were the Killer Whales, Spirit Keepers, and Eagles.

Other counselors were Jim Boardman, Martine Springer, and Elizabeth Shivers.

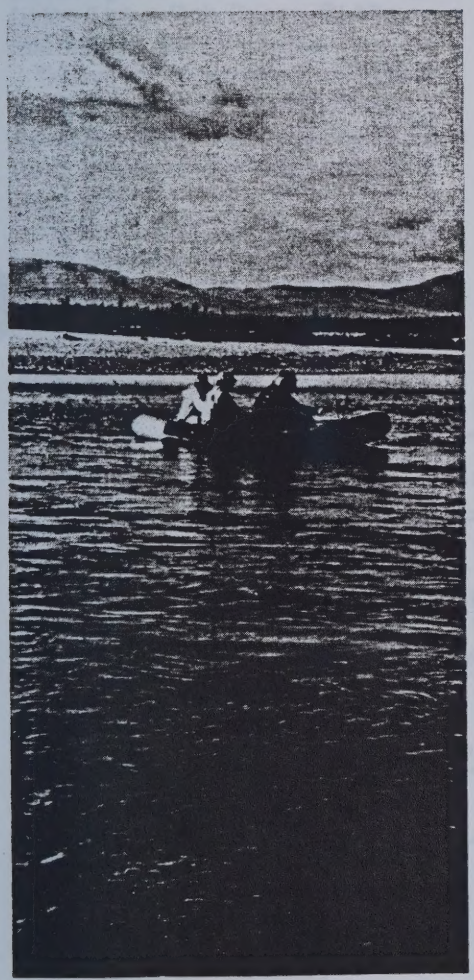
Jim Boardman told me, "Yesterday they cut up some salmon and are drying it now. They are learning about nature and how to take care of themselves. On Friday they are going to have a potlatch."

This summer Marlene Kawagley, a senior at Arlicaq High School in Akiak, has been learning first-hand what it's like to work as a BLM newswriter, adjudicator, archaeologist or carpenter. She's working for BLM in the innovative Resource Apprenticeship Program for Students(RAPS).

For two weeks in July, Kawagley worked as a reporter and did other jobs in the BLM state office of public affairs. She did interviews, wrote stories, and did research.

Squirrel River offers quiet waters in a wild Arctic setting

Crisp, clear mornings. The camaraderie. Looking at the country. Not too many bugs. We caught the Arctic char and chum salmon. That was a great trip.'



Out there on the BLM-managed Squirrel River, the vistas of wild country combine with the gentle motion of the raft to wipe out the pressures of the city life.

A light breeze blows as the sun beats down on you. The raft slides over the water with a faint slap. Ducks fly over. This is the Alaska wilderness you were looking for.

If you will be in Kotzebue and want to experience Alaska's wilderness without too much expense, try the BLM-managed Squirrel River. You will see tundra, spruce and hardwood forests, and rugged, barren mountains. The river's water is so clear you can see the fish swimming over the limestone gravel on the stream bed. Moose and grizzly live along the river, and caribou migrate through the area.

Many gravel bars along the way provide excellent camping sites. There are no rapids to worry about, and very few sweepers, or low-hanging trees. Best of all, very few people travel the river, so you can experience the solitude you came to Alaska for.

If you like to fish, the Squirrel offers chum salmon, grayling, whitefish, arctic char and northern pike. The salmon that spawn in the river and its tributaries contribute significantly to the Kobuk River salmon run, which is important to sport, subsistence and commercial fishing.

The Squirrel River valley is adjacent to Noatak National Preserve and to the Kobuk Valley National Park. The river flows out of the Baird Mountains through a broad valley to join the Kobuk River at the village of Kiana. A chartered aircraft will get you from Kotzebue to where the North Fork of the Squirrel joins the main stem, about 58 miles northeast of Kotzebue, in 30 minutes. From there it takes from two to five days to reach Kiana by boat, where regularly scheduled commercial flights will return you to Kotzebue.

Some areas of the Squirrel River valley are excellent for hiking, particularly in the high country of the Baird Mountains. The slopes are frequented by Dall sheep. You can enjoy smooth walking through the alpine tundra, where wild flowers and berries carpet the ground in summer. You may find caribou walking the same paths they have used for centuries. Although the North Fork of the Squirrel is normally too shallow to raft, a hiking trip along this tributary is well worth the effort.

For more information about the Squirrel River and help in planning float trip, call BLM's Kotzebue Office at 442-3430.

—SM

BLM wild and scenic rivers h

Think of rivers in early America and you may imagine Lewis and Clark paddling up the Missouri, John Wesley Powell rafting through the unknown Grand Canyon, or Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn rafting past Mississippi sternwheelers. But today these adventures are only found in books. The closest we can come is taking a float trip down a river that is part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

America has been "taming" rivers with dams and reservoirs for flood control, irrigation and recreation for more than 100 years. By now, some rivers like the Columbia are just a series of dams for their entire length.

In the late 1960s, Congress recognized that the national policy to construct dams needed to be balanced by another policy to preserve rivers in their free-flowing condition.

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, passed twenty years ago this October, protects designated rivers and their immediate environment for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

The rivers included in the system must be free-flowing and have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other values. Either Congress or the legislature of the state in which the river flows can designate a river as part of this system.

The act specifies that river segments will be classified, designated and administered as either "recreational," "scenic" or "wild."

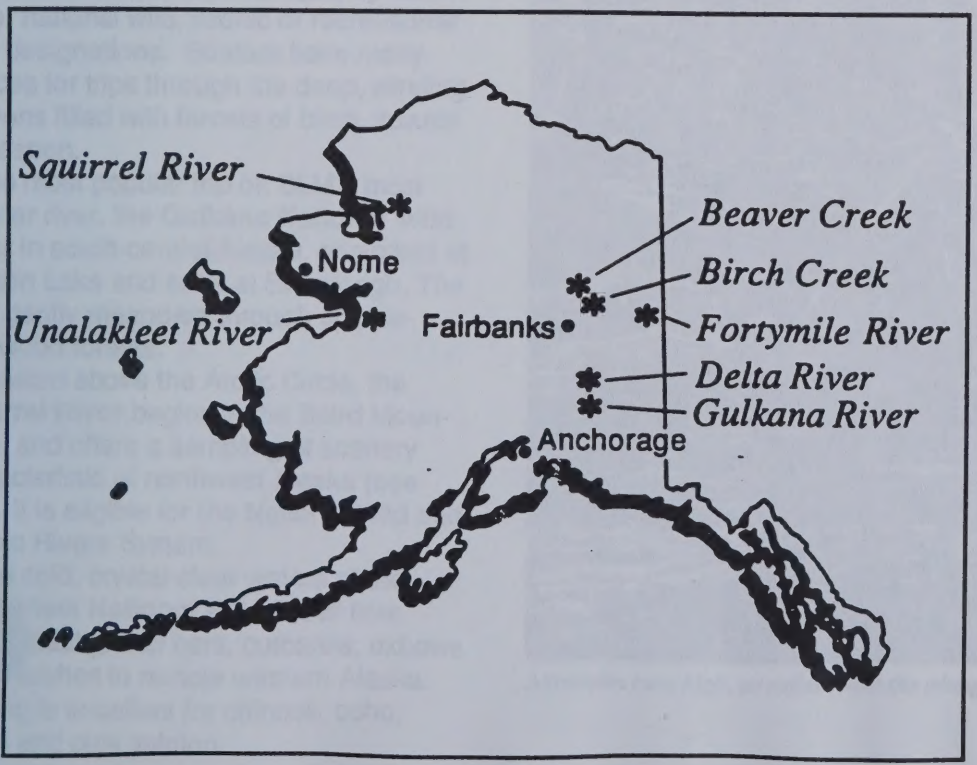
"Recreational" rivers may have some development along the shorelines and may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

"Scenic" rivers may be accessible in places by roads but are managed to remain free of impoundments. Shorelines and watersheds are still largely undeveloped.

"Wild" rivers are free of impoundments and are generally inaccessible except by trail. The water is unpolluted and the shorelines are primitive. These rivers represent vestiges of primitive America as seen by early explorers in the area.

—EB

This team, feeling the thrill of victory, pose[s] [on] wild and scenic river.



Alaska has 42 rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, more than any other state. Six of these rivers are administered by the Bureau of Land Management. A seventh, the Squirrel, is eligible for inclusion. These seven rivers all generally meet the "wild" criteria, but some segments have been given other classifications.

Beaver Creek National Wild River is a moderately swift, shallow stream that flows through rolling hills and past the jagged limestone peaks of the White Mountains. BLM manages a 111-mile segment in the National Recreation Area.

From its headwaters just north of the Steese National Conservation Area, **Birch Creek National Wild River** flows quite swiftly through upland plateaus, forested valleys, rolling hills and low mountains. After it reaches the marshy Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, it slows and meanders until it joins the Yukon River. BLM manages a 126-mile "wild" segment.

The **Delta National Wild and Recreational River** begins the Tangle La[kes] region of southcentral Alaska and flows north through the Alaska Range to the Yukon River. Tundra-covered hills give

d pleasure for now and future

another triumphant run on a BLM managed

way to steep alluvial slopes and rock cliffs as you journey northward.

The **Fortymile National Wild and Scenic River** drainage is a network of creeks and rivers in east-central Alaska, 392 miles of which are managed by BLM under national wild, scenic or recreational river designations. Boaters have many choices for trips through the deep, winding canyons filled with forests of birch, spruce and aspen.

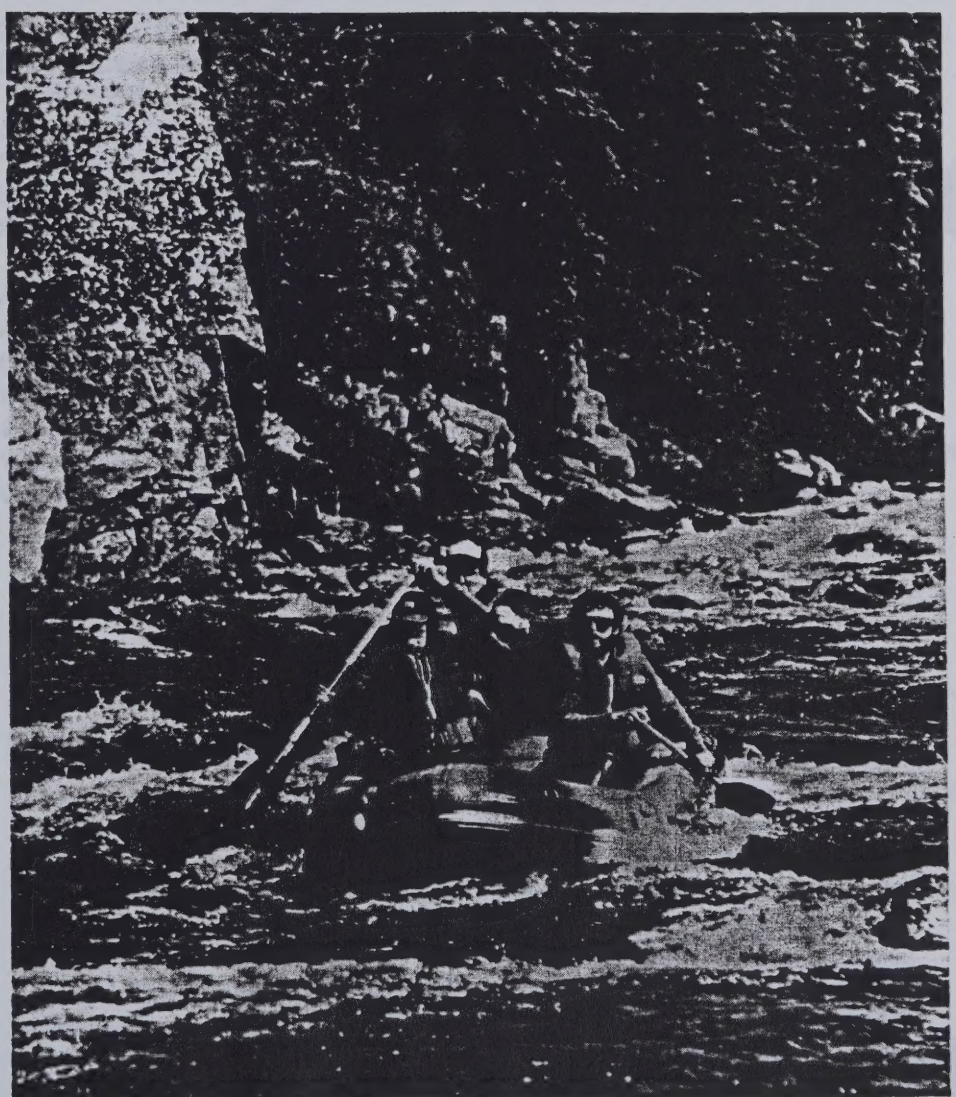
The most popular trip on BLM's most popular river, the **Gulkana National Wild River** in south-central Alaska, originates at Paxson Lake and ends at Sourdough. The river gently meanders through spruce-hardwood forests.

Located above the Arctic Circle, the **Squirrel River** begins in the Baird Mountains, and offers a sampling of scenery characteristic of northwest Alaska (see p. 2). It is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The cold, crystal-clear waters of the **Unalakleet National Wild River** flow c past gravel bars, cutbanks, oxbows a marshes in remote western Alaska. Fishing is excellent for chinook, coho, chum and pink salmon.

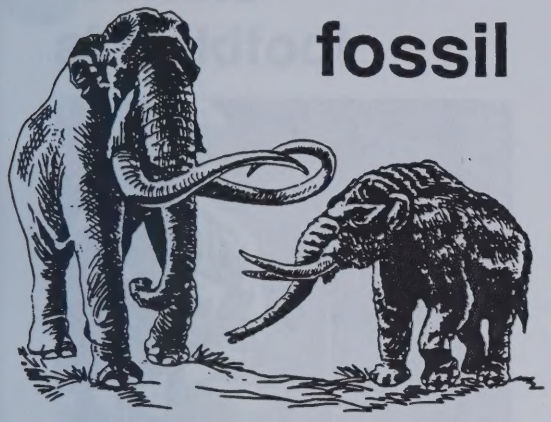
Two new BLM recreation brochures are now available. ***River Adventures on BLM Lands in Alaska*** *introduces the recreationist to the BLM-managed components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in Alaska. General safety and trip planning information is included with a map and brief description of seven rivers. A large river chart allows readers to compare information such as trip length, difficulty, access, special features and fish species. The second brochure,* ***The Gulkana National Wild and Scenic River****, gives detailed trip planning information on BLM's most-popular Alaska river. This is the first of a new series that will cover all BLM Wild and Scenic rivers in the state. The brochures are available at all BLM offices and the three Alaska Public Lands Information Centers in the state.*

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
1968 - 1988



Adrenalin runs high, as rafters take the plunge through Canyon Rapids on the Gulkana River.

BLM to carbon-date fossil



Mammoth, left, stood about 12 feet tall.

After miners at the Valdez Creek Mine notified the Bureau of Land Management that they'd found something interesting, BLM anthropologist Bob King hot-footed it up to the mine to take a look. He found the miners had unearthed a two-foot-long chunk of tusk about eight inches in diameter. The piece of tusk and several fragments were scooped up by a front-end loader working gravels about 260 feet below ground surface. The pieces of tusk weren't frozen, but there was evidence they had been frozen in times past.

BLM expects to have radiocarbon dating done. King notes that while the tusk may be as "recent" as 10,000 years old, it may predate the last advance of glaciation, about 100,000 years ago.

"I'm inclined to think it may be a mammoth tusk rather than mastodon, but we will have a better idea after the paleontologists examine it," said King.

"One thing that made this particular piece of tusk scientifically valuable is that it was possible for the BLM to verify the exact location where the tusk was found. The mining company couldn't have done a nicer job, the way they handled this. They notified us, stopped mining and looked carefully for more."

Submerged lands bill goes to President

Now before the President is a bill that will officially settle the problem of who gets the beds of non-navigable lakes and rivers when BLM conveys land to the state and Native individuals and corporations.

If President Reagan signs it into law, the bill will not affect BLM's current system for conveying land or surveying it. It will settle the question of who owns the submerged lands, and will resolve several pending lawsuits.

"The impact of this law would have occurred it it hadn't passed," said BLM Deputy State Director for Conveyances Bob Arndorfer.

Fran Eickbush, BLM deputy state director for Cadastral Survey, said, "This act makes official what we've been doing for the last four years anyway."

"The thrust of this act is to make Alaska like all the other states," said Arndorfer. "Prior to 1983 only navigable waters were not charged against the entitlement of the state and Native groups when acreages were conveyed. Everything else was charged."

BLM's state and ANCSA coordinator for the division of conveyances, Joe Labay, said, "In 1983 the method was changed for calculating acreages so that the land under lakes larger than 50 acres and rivers wider than 198 feet is not counted against state and Native entitlements. Smaller rivers and lakes are not counted if they are determined to be navigable, since the state acquired title to them at statehood."

In mid-August President Reagan signed this bill into law.

Penfold puts top managers in new jobs

State Director Mike Penfold has shifted several top managers to different positions

"These moves are designed to enhance operations in Alaska, said Penfold. "These are all key, experienced people. The changes will not only provide fresh insight into issues and problems, but will improve service."

John J. Rumps, former Anchorage District Manager, becomes chief, Office of Management, Planning and Budget. Gene R. Terland, former Glennallen District Manager, becomes chief, Branch of Renewable Resources. Francis D. Eickbush, former deputy state director, Cadastral Survey, moves to deputy state director, Support Services. Robert W. Arndorfer, former deputy director, Conveyance Management, now is deputy state director, Cadastral Survey. Wayne A. Boden, former deputy state director, Lands and Renewable Resources becomes deputy state director, Conveyance Management. Bishop T. Buckle, former deputy state director, Support Services, becomes deputy director, Lands and Renewable Resou

Volunteer hosts hundreds of tourists at Coldfoot

BLM volunteer Diana Gansemer, helps at an archaeological dig near Coldfoot.

Amid the crowd of visitors 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle, a curious tourist from Minnesota raised his hand to ask, "When was this community of Coldfoot started, and why?"

The Bureau of Land Management representative, volunteer Diana Gansemer, was explaining the natural resources of northern Alaska and how the Bureau manages them.

Answering the tourist's question, she said, "Prospectors found gold near here in 1899 at the mouth of Slate Creek and other creeks. They traveled the Koyukuk River by boat, often using horses to pull the boats upriver."

Gansemer also told them that one popular story said that when some of the prospectors didn't find gold, they got cold feet and left the area, and the name "Coldfoot" was coined. "If that's true," she added, "then obviously, some miners stuck out and have continued to mine in the area through the years."

Built on BLM-managed land 262 miles north of Fairbanks, modern-day Coldfoot provides service to truckers traveling to Prudhoe Bay, to the gold miners in the surrounding area, and now to tourists.

The Minnesota tourist and his wife, typical of many summer visitors this year, were seeing a cross-section of the scenery in northern Alaska by motor coach. The road trip into this farthest north part of the United States has only been possible for the last two years.

The number of people making this unusual trip this has already increased more than 12 times since 1987 when the State of Alaska began issuing permits for tour companies to travel the Dalton Highway from Fairbanks to Prudhoe Bay. During the summer of 1987 one company ran one coach a week; now two companies run six or more coaches a week.

Between 45 and 135 tourists spend the night at the hotel in Coldfoot during these trips.

In this little community, the BLM and the Park Service have cooperated to open a small visitor center. BLM provides visitor information and gives presentations about the northern lands, using the Park Service's building.

BLM volunteer Diana Gansemer told the tourists how BLM manages recreation, wildlife habitat, mining, archaeological and cultural discoveries, rivers, and subsistence programs for Alaska Native people. "Besides my programs," Gansemer said, "we're also having special topics presented by guest speakers."

That evening after the BLM presentation, the tourists basked in the late-night sunlight as they joined the interpretive walk she led through the old Coldfoot cemetery. From there they walked down to the banks of the Koyukuk River, where five old mining cabins remain from 1907.

Local miner Andy Miscovitch, the claimholder there, is letting BLM show people around the outside of these old cabins. Gansemer tells many of Miscovitch's tales of early mining days here.

If you go up the Dalton Highway, visit historic Coldfoot and see the newest attraction—the BLM presentation and informative walk. The action starts at 7 p.m., and there is no charge.

—SDW

BLM reserves water rights on Beaver Creek

For many years the Beaver Creek National Wild and Scenic River, about 50 miles north of Fairbanks, has been a favorite of people seeking a primitive retreat in the great Alaskan outdoors. There in the crystal-clear water numerous arctic grayling rise eagerly to the flies and spinners of the adventurous anglers who float the river in rafts and canoes.

To make sure enough water will always be available for present and future fishing and recreational boating, the Bureau of Land Management has filed with the State of Alaska for water reservations on Beaver Creek. This is the first such filing for water rights on any BLM-managed national wild and scenic river in Alaska.

"This is a milestone," says Ron Huntsinger, BLM hydrologist who has been spearheading the effort. "Our work sets the tone for instream flow quantifictions for the BLM nationwide. Other people are using the same methods. They're starting to focus on insteam flows to protect resource values."

During the summers of 1986 and 1987, BLM conducted an instream flow study that determined the minimum amount of water needed to support fish, aquatic life, water quality, riparian zone and channel maintenance, recreation, transportation and groundwater recharge.

The next step was filing for a state-adjudicated instream flow reservation. After the State of Alaska reviews BLM's application, it will seek public comments. Public hearings will be held. Then if the reservation is approved, the state will ensure that other river users will not extract water if the flow level is at or below the minimum required by BLM. Although two miners have also filed for water rights on headwater tributaries of Beaver Creek, no one has filed on the main stream yet.

BLM manages the first 111 miles of the river.

—SDW

frontier flashes

Two top BLM managers recently retired: **Jules Tileston**, Chief of Pipeline Monitoring, and **Jerry Zamber**, Chief of the Office of Planning, Management and Budget. Both were long-time BLM executives.

▽

Draft environmental impact statements and management plans for **Fort Wainwright's** Yukon Maneuver Area and **Fort Greeley's** Maneuver Area and Air Drop Zone will be available for review and comment in mid-September. Copies will be sent to libraries and BLM offices throughout the state. BLM and the U.S. Army are preparing the plans in response to the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1986. For more information contact Jim Ducker, BLM Alaska State Office, 701 C St., Box 13, Anchorage, AK. 99513; phone (907) 271-5595.

Bill Hauser, acting chief of the BLM EIS team preparing impact statements on placer mining near Fairbanks, says the hearings and public meetings have now been completed on the draft statements. The comment period is over for the **Beaver Creek, Birch and Forty-mile rivers,** and the team is now analyzing the comments on Beaver and Birch Creek and making revisions to the Beaver Creek EIS.

They expect to complete the final EIS for Beaver Creek by early November, and the rest "will follow in the next several months after November."

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The **final management plan** for the resources of **BLM's Campbell Tract in Anchorage** has now been completed. Developed over the past year, this plan will guide recreation management, environmental education and other resource uses on the tract. BLM maintains an administrative site on this 730-acre natural area. The plan calls for expansion and improvement of existing recreational trails. The public was involved in the development of the plan through a series of public meetings and informal contacts.

The company that now operates the **Valdez Creek gold mine** operation recently settled out of court with the State of Alaska on charges of violating a number of environmental regulations. This mine, just north of the Denali Highway near Cantwell, is the largest gold mining operation in Alaska.

BLM compliance officers first noted violations of the company's plan of operations in December 1987. BLM then notified the The state Department of Environmental Conservation, which pursued the case further. The company has entered agreement with the state to install $15,000 worth of pollution control equipment at the facility by September 15th.

Bureau of Land Management

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